GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2921
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2005
INDO-KAZAKHISTAN CO-OPERATION IN OIL SECTOR
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian and Kazakhistan have agreed to cooperate in oil and natural gas sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and areas identified for cooperation; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (c):- Yes, Sir. In the 5th Session of the India-Kazakhstan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade-Economic Scientific, Industry and Cultural cooperation held in Astana, Kazakhstan on the 17th -18th February, 2005, both sides noted the progress and positive dynamics of the increase in bilateral cooperation in various fields and agreed to provide necessary support for further strengthening the relationship. In the area of oil and gas, the following points emerged:-

(i) The Kazakh side invited Indian oil and gas companies to participate in tenders for onland E&P projects.

(ii) ONGC Videsh Ltd.(OVL) and Kazmunaigaz (KMG), the national oil company of Kazakhstan, entered into an MOU to jointly study opportunities in Kazakhstan and identify a suitable project and negotiate with the Government of Kazakhstan for joint participation. Joint studies by the Indo-Kazakh team have commenced and a contract for Technical services between OVL and KMG signed. OVL is exploring the possibility of acquiring some E&P assets in Kazakhstan. Recently concluded MOUs between the Mittal Group and ONGC/OVL are also expected to facilitate in India`s presence in Kazakhistan hydrocarbon sector.

(iii) The Indian and Kazakh side also agreed to form a Joint Working Group on Hydrocarbons under the aegis of the Joint Commission. The Working Group would examine and develop various concepts for joint participation, including oil and gas evacuation and transportation facilities within Kazakhstan and across the border to other countries, gas processing plants, petrochemical industries, various service activities like seismic survey, exploratory drilling, development of fields, R&D and training. A Joint Technical Working Group (JTWG) on hydrocarbons has been set up and its meeting has already been held.